

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 ACDA-12 INRE-00 /101 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. NEUMANN
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----049272 182232Z /12

O 182150Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS
CIA
USIA
NSC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JANUARY 18, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JANUARY 18. FYI ONLY,
OFFICER PRESENT FOR THE DAY WAS JOHN TRATTNER.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON MR. BEGIN'S REMARKS OF
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YESTERDAY?

A. I DO NOT. I WOULD REMIND YOU OF WHAT I SAID ABOUT
EVENTS IN JERUSALEM THE OTHER DAY -- THAT WE ARE NOT, FROM
HERE, GOING TO COMMENT ON OR DISCUSS WHAT'S GOING ON OUT
THERE, THAT WE LEAVE THAT TO THE SECRETARY AND TO HIS
PARTY.

Q. THE SHAH OF IRAN HAS SAID PUBLICLY, I THINK ON TWO
OCCASIONS, THAT IRAN WOULD NOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT TO AN
INVASION OF SOMALIA. SOMALIA NOW CLAIMS THAT IT IS THE
VICTIM OF AN INVASION. YOU SAY YOU CANNOT CONFIRM THAT
INVASION. WHAT DO YOU TELL IRAN?

A. WE ARE, OF COURSE, AWARE THAT THE SOMALIANS HAVE BEEN

SEEKING HELP IN A NUMBER OF QUARTERS; BUT I'M NOT ABLE
TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF THAT. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR OUR
BELIEF THAT THE INJECTION OF ARMS INTO THE CONFLICT DOES
NOT LEAD THE COMBATANTS TO ANY KIND OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.
AND, OF COURSE, FOR OUR PART WE HAVE REFUSED REQUESTS FOR
ARMS. BUT I'M UNABLE TO TAKE YOU BEYOND THAT POINT IN

ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION.

Q. HAVE YOU MADE IT CLEAR TO THE SHAH THAT YOU DON'T SEE ANY EVIDENCE OF AN INVASION OF SOMALIA?

A. WELL, NOW, THAT'S A DETAIL I DON'T KNOW FOR A FACT.

Q. COULD YOU TAKE THAT IN VIEW OF HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS?

A. ALL RIGHT.

Q. IF YOU'LL ACCEPT AN ADDITION TO THAT, SINCE THE SAUDIS HAVE MADE SIMILAR STATEMENTS -- I BELIEVE IT WAS THE SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER WHO ALSO SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY
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COULD NOT STAND IDLY BY -- WOULD YOU INCORPORATE THAT?

A. YES.

Q. IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THAT AMERICAN WEAPONS FROM IRAN ARE BEING USED IN SOMALIA?

A. WELL, I DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON WHETHER WE HAVE EVIDENCE. I DON'T KNOW THAT WE HAVE EVIDENCE THAT IRANIAN WEAPONS ARE BEING USED THERE, BUT I WOULD NOT WANT TO COMMENT ON THE USE OF OTHER PEOPLE'S WEAPONS IN A DIFFERENT PLACE.

Q. U.S. WEAPONS TO IRAN.?

A. NO. PERMISSION TO TRANSFER WEAPONS WOULD HAVE TO BE SOUGHT FROM US, OBTAINED FROM US; AND I'M CONFIDENT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE GIVEN IN THIS CASE.

Q. A LITTLE WHILE AGO YOU SAID THE INJECTION OF ARMS TO SOMALIA WOULD NOT LEAD TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE INJECTION OF ARMS TO THE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY ISRAEL?

A. I THINK THE QUESTION CAME UP THE OTHER DAY. IT IS A DIFFERENT SITUATION. THIS IS A CONFLICT IN THE PROCESS AND IT IS THE KIND OF SITUATION WE DON'T THINK THAT

PUTTING MORE ARMS INTO WILL RESOLVE OR HELP TO RESOLVE. I DON'T THINK YOU CAN DRAW A COMPARISON LIKE THAT. YOU KNOW, IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR INCONSISTENCIES, I AM SURE YOU CAN FIND THEM. BUT IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE WHERE WE
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ARE TALKING ABOUT SOMALIA, ETHIOPIA, ON THAT OUR POLICY
REMAINS AS I STATED IT.

Q. WHY IS IT ANY DIFFERENT? BECAUSE ISRAEL IS OCCUPYING
ARAB LANDS?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO BE DRAWN INTO A DISCUSSION OF WHETHER
ISRAEL OCCUPIES ARAB LANDS OR DOESN'T OCCUPY ARAB LANDS
OR WHETHER THESE ARE ARAB LANDS OR TO TRY TO DRAW IT TO
MAKE SUPERFICIAL COMPARISONS LIKE THAT. IT IS TOO SERIOUS
A SUBJECT TO DO THAT FOR.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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